SHRLBY COUNTY, KENTUCKY, OCT. 19, 1854.

To the Editors of the National Intelligencer: GENTLEMEN: I cherish too much respect for your can der and impartiality to deem it necessary to give any explanation as to the cause of this communication. The windication of the military character of a deceased brother soldier needs no apology; and I am persuaded that, had your multifarious duties permitted you to examine this work by Mr. Headley, your surprise would equal mine in witnessing this bold attempt to depreciate the merits of a gallant soldier and successful general. You were the editors of your interesting journal at the period of the second war with England, which was the real war of independence, Dr. Franklin regarding the first war as only the your countrymen in grateful rejoicings for the glorious results of Gen. HARRISON'S operations in the Northwest, and you could scarcely have conjectured at that day that any subsequent historian should speak of him "as lacking the energy and promptness necessary to an efficient com-

But to the immediate purpose of this communication. As soon as I met with this work I addressed a letter to Mr. Headley, proposing that, if he intended to publish a second edition, I could furnish more accurate information than he had published in reference to the operations in the Northwest. In reply he expressed a readiness to receive the information, but did not allude to a second edition, nor to the probable time of its appearance. This reply was received in December last, just as I was starting upon a journey to Texas, where I remained several months. Upon my return I renewed the subject of inquiry, but having no reply I proceed to make the vindication, if practicable, as public as the history.

In reviewing this work there are three principal points

obnoxious to criticism. In the first place, the author refers chiefly to two previous histories, whose authors, Armstrong and Ingersoll, resided in the Atlantic States, and knew nothing personally of the Northwest, while there is but one reference, and that upon an unimportant matter, to McAfee's "History of the Late War in the Western Country;" and no allusion is made to Brackenridge's History of the War, nor to Judge Hall's Memoir, or Dawson's Life of Gen. Harrison, nor to Butler's History of Kentucky. These publications in the West were prepared by gentlemen of acknowledged literary taste. who enjoyed the best means of information, soon after the events transpired, and were acquainted as well with the extended theatre of operations as with the peculiar character of Indian warfare. Brackenridge was a native of Western Pennsylvania; Hall and McAfee were officers in the war, the latter having been a captain in Johnson's regiment, and contemporaneous public opinion in the West regarded his history as a standard work. On the other hand, Gen. Armstrong, as Secretary of War, was guilty of injustice to Gen. Harrison in acts of such gross interference with his authority as commander of a district as to compel his retirement from the army, by which the nation was deprived of his further services in the war, especially before New Orleans, where it was the purpose of Mr. Madison to employ him, instead of sending him to the Northern frontier. It is probable, then, Mr. Headley, whose literary labors are very voluminous, might content himself with such materials as were easily accessible in the Eastern cities, without the trouble of searching for copies of the works at the West. How far this neglect is pardonable an impartial public will judge. One thing, however, is certain: The opinion he has expressed is conclusive evidence that he has adopted the prejudices of Armstrong and has entirely overlooked the authentic histories of McAfee and Butler, and the concurring testimony of numerous public bodies called to express an opinion as to Gen. Harrison's military character. His commendation of Niles's Register in the preface is just; but that valuable journal contains no information on which the author could predicate his unjust allusion to Gen. Harrison. In the second place, Mr. Headley has given undue im-

portance to some minor events of the war in the North west, while some prominent events are scarcely noticed, and the leading measures of the main campaign are touched upon with great brevity. The minor events at Sandusky, under Major Croghan, and the partizan affair under Capt. Holmes, though covering these youthful heroes with unfading glory, were not essential to the main objects of the campaign, and yet occupy as much space operations under the commander-in-chief at the vitally important post at Fort Meigs, or the interesting and eventful incidents of the main army in crossing Lake Erie, in capturing Proctor's army, and defeating the formidable Northwestern savages, led by the celebrated Te-cumseh. The author contents himself with a single short sentence in noticing the brilliant defence of Fort Harrison by Capt. Taylor and the noble defence by Col. Campbell at Massissinaway against a night attack by Indians, calling for the exercise of a valor scarcely inferior to that demanded and developed at the unparalleled victory of Tippecance. An equal negligence is displayed by the author in his brief reference to Gov. Shelby in the campaign of 1813, who is noticed in the following language. so little in keeping with his venerable character or the dignity of history :

"Gov. Shelby, of Kentucky, though 62 years of age, was there with his brave Kentuckians, a volunteer, shaking his white locks with the merriest."

This brief notice is but a slight tribute of applause for the display of that heroic patriotism by which in thirty days' notice, as the Governor of an independent State, he rallied four thousand mounted volunteers from Kentucky. and furnished the means of victory as opportune as in the equally glorious achievement on "King's Mountain," which turned the tide of war to the South in the memorable struggle for independence. Mr. Madison, in his annual message to Congress, speaks of the patriotic Governor with more justice and discrimination

"The success on Lake Erie having opened a passage to the territory of the enemy, the officer commanding the Northwestern army transferred the war thither; and, rapidly puruing the lostile troops, fleeing with their associates, forced a general action, which quickly terminated in the capture of the British and dispersion of the savage force. This result is signally honorable to Majo General Harrison, by whose military talents it was prepared to Col. Johnson and his mounted volunteers, whose impetuous onset gave a decisive blow to the ranks of the enemy; and to the spirit of the volunteer militia, equally brave and patriotic, who bore an interesting part in the come; more especially to the Chief Magistrate of Kentucky, at the head of them whose heroism, signalized in the war which established the independence of his country, sought, at an advanced age, a share in hardships and battles for maintaining its rights and its safety."

The third and last point of view in which this history deserves animadversion is to be found in the following paragraph on pages 196 and 197 of the first volume:

"When Tecumseh reached again the British camp in Canada he found the American army at Fort Meigs. Harrison, after Winchester's defeat, instead of pushing on in pursuit, had retreated. He was a brave General, but lacked the energy and promptness necessary to an effi-cient commander. Thus far these qualities seemed confined to the English officers, leaving to ours the single one

This is an unjust aspersion on the character of the venerated dead. The retreat from the Rapids of the Maumee after the defeat of Winchester was the result of the plainest dictates of military propriety. The greater part of the left wing of the army had been destroyed at the River Raisin by a superior force, which could be reinforced in a few hours from Maiden, the headquarters of the British army; while Gen. Harrison, with an inferior force, was seventy miles distant from the main body of his army. Mr. Headley might have found, on pages 236, 287, and 288 of McAfee's History, an account of the information submitted to a council of war, called on the night of the 22d January, and of the unanimous advice of the council-

"That it would be proper to retire a short distance on the road upon which the artillery and reinforcements were approaching; that the position which had been selected by Gen. Winchester was on the wrong side of the river, and would not prevent the Indians from annoying general order:

army by the information respecting the enemy which may be found in the pages of the subsequent historian, but by that which at the time was in his possession; and in the present case we may remark that, immediately after ex-periencing a defeat for the want of a cautious and strict conformity to military principle, it would have been ex-cusable in the officers of the army to have carried that virtue to excess.'

McAfee has introduced into his history extracts of a Col. Wood, of the corps of engineers, who served under he adds: Gen. Harrison during the operations in the Northwest. The existence of this journal was not known to Gen. Harrison until some years after the glorious death of Col. Wood in the memorable sortie from Fort Erie under Gen. Brown, who formed his plan in conformity to that adopted by Gen. Harrison at the siege of Fort Meigs, where Col. Wood received a brevet for distinguished conduct. I war of the Revolution. Your hearts mingled with those of could scarcely suppose so improbable a case as that of Mr. Headley expressing an opinion as to the military character of Gen. Harrison in opposition to that held by Col. Wood, who was an eye-witness of the events made the subject of controversy, and who was distinguished in more severely-contested battles than any officer of the war, having been breveted at Fort Meigs and Lundy's Lane, and having, in that brilliant achievement under Gen. Brown at Fort Erie, consecrated by his blood the

rights and glory of his country. In reference to the battle and massacre at the River Raisin, Col. Wood remarks, (288 of McAfee:)

"Thus was there a corps of one thousand men, th elite of the army, totally sacrificed in the most wanton manner possible, and that too without the slightest bene-fit to their country or posterity. With only one-third or one-fourth of the force destined for that service, destitute of artillery, of engineers, of men who had ever seen or heard the least of an enemy, and with but a very in-adequate supply of ammunition, how he ever could have entertained the most distant hope of success, or what right he had to presume to claim it, is to me one of the strangest things in the world. An adept in the art of war is alone authorized to deviate from the ordinary and established ules by which that art for a great length of time has been use-ully and successfully applied." "What human means" fully and successfully applied." "What human means" tually and advanced more rapidly to the grand result than (page 231) "within the control of General Harrison could did Gen. Wayne, whose convoys were establed, and who eady looked upon as lost, as doomed to inevitable destruction? Certainly none; because neither orders to halt nor troops to succor him could be received in time. or at least that was the expectation. He was already in motion and Harrison still at Upper Sandusky, seventy says: miles in his rear. The weather was inclement, the snow was deep, and a large portion of the Black Swamp was tlements were universally admitted to be julicious; and, uch a pressure of embarrassing circumstances, MORE THAN

And yet Mr. Headley maintains the opinion that it was he duty of General Harrison, after the defeat of Winchester, to advance with an inferior force upon Malden! He who believes that, with such a force and under the circumstances which then occurred, General Harrison sught to have advanced upon the enemy must be left to correct his opinion in the school of experience "-a declaration made by General Cass and the other principal case of annoyance occurred in the spring and summer of officers of the army in reference to a similar state of case 1813, and this was the murder of a family on Cole Creek, at Sandusky.

As a further proof of the faithful discharge of duty on this occasion as well as during the entire campaign, it dence with Gen. Vincent. may be proper to add, for the information of Mr. Headley, the following letter addressed to General Harrison by the remnants of the Kentucky and Ohio troops at the pe- memory of Gen. Harrison in the opinion that "he lacked riod of their retiring from service.

rison. It is dated at the Miami Rapids, and signed by of his conduct as a commander. R. M. Gano, (of Wayne's army,) M. D. Hardin, (father of Col. Hardin who fell at Buena Vista,) Patrick Gray, Thomas Morris, George Pugh, Joseph Redding, Thomas Story, James W. Gillespee, James King, Joel Garnett, Peter Dudley, Thomas Brooks, R. C. Holder, Thomas Gest. S. W. Megowan, Wm. Caldwell, Daniel Bowen, and Alexander Welch. They were near the scene of action had every means of knowing the facts in the case, and were mourning over their friends killed or massacred at the Raisin when this address was made to the Commander-in-Chief:

" Although various causes have reduced the regiments to which we respectively belong to a very small number, we had flattered ourselves, when we marched from our late encampment on Portage river to this place, that you would have been enabled immediately to have led us on, and to have given us an opportunity, under your immediate eye, to have avenged the injury sustained by our friends and our country on the River Raisin in the last month; to have regained the ground lost, and to have seen and aided you in repairing the loss sustained. Had circumstances justified you in proceeding, we could not have doubted the result under your auspices, and we should have remained with you, regardless of the time we had served or the fatigues we had undergone, and uninfu-well deserves the warmest thanks of the nation." operations, the time we have remained in the wildernes as the advance of the northwestern army requires our re turn to civilized life and to our homes. When permitted to return we shall, after a service of six months under you, carry back to our friends and our country a cenfir mation of those high opinions of your military worth which were formed upon a first acquaintance. Should circumstances again call us to the field, we should be highly gratified at being placed under your immediate

The general and field-officers of the two brigades of Ohio militia under Tupper and Perkins made an address to General Harrison at Camp Miami Rapids on 20th February, from which I quote the concluding paragraph :

"Great was the undertaking and numerous the obsta cles which opposed your progress. A wilderness of near-ly one hundred and fifty miles was to be traversed, which, ith its swamps and morasses, presented difficulties far reater than the Alps. Great as were these obstacles, relying on the willingness of your troops to endure any hardship to reach the enemy, you rightly judged that they might be surmounted. A few weeks past every circumstance united to promise you an immediate accomplishment of your designs. Large supplies of provisions and numerous munitions of war were so far advanced as to be within your courted. within your control. Your troops, with an unbounded reliance on your judgment and skill, were eager to be led up to the enemy, and waited but your order to march. Your exertions had been great, and every thing promised the suffering soldier a speedy reward for his toils. At this important moment the unfortunate movement of Gen. Winchester to the River Raisin, with its unhappy consequences, (a movement we believe without your orders or broke the successful chain of operations and presented new and unlooked-for difficulties before you "On returning from service, sir, we are happy in assuring you of our fullest confidence and that o

spective commands in the measures you have taken; ey have been cautious, skilful, and guarded, such would at this time have carried our arms to the walls of Malden, had not the unhappy occurrences at the River Raisin checked your progress, and for a short time thwart-ed your plans of operation. That you may soon teach the enemy the distinction between an honorable and sayage warfare, by planting our standard in the heart of their country, and regain the honor and territory we have lost, and, a just tribute to valor, toils, and sufferings, receive the grateful thanks of a generous and free peo is among the first, the warmest wishes of our hearts.'

This address is signed by Edward W. Tupper, Simon Perkins, Charles Miller, John Andrews, William Rayan, Robert Safford, N. Beasley, James Galloway, Solomon Bentley, George Darrow, W. W. Cotgreave, and Jacob

These documents abundantly refute the declaration made by Mr. Headley, volume 1, page 123-

* That in the commencement of the war we had neither an army nor generals that could be trusted. The troops lacked confidence in their leaders, and the latter had no confi dence in their troops."

Additional proof of the injustice contained in the preceding paragraph may be found in the beautiful general orders by which Harrison and Winchester respectively surrendered their command to each other. At Fort Wayne, on the 19th September, Gen. Harrison said:

If any thing could soften the regret which the General feels at parting with troops which have so entirely won his confidence and affection, it is the circumstance of his committing them to the charge of one of the heroes of our glorious revolution—a man distinguished as well for the service he has rendered the country as for the possession of every qualification which constitutes the gentleman."

Gen. Winchester, at Defiance, October 30th, said in a

the rear." McAfee adds that "this retrograde move- | "I have the honor of announcing to this army the ment was altogether unnecessary in the actual state of things; but we are not to judge of the commander of an army by the information respecting the enemy which may be found in the pages of the subsequent historian, but by army is and will be collected, and possessing himself great military skill and reputation, the General is confident in the belief that his presence in this army, in the character of its chief, will be hailed with universal ap-

Mr. Headley makes a statement on pages 208 and 204 which is not sustained by the facts known and recognised most authentic and valuable journal kept by the gallant at that day. After speaking of the attack on Sandusky,

> "Our whole Western frontier was now in a most de-"Our whole western frontier was now in a most de-plorable condition. Instead of carrying the war into the enemy's country, we had been unable to protect our own borders. Natwithstanding the repulse at Fort Meigs, to the Mississippi, with a densely wooded frontier stretchthe savages still hung around our settlements, making frequent and successful dashes upon them."

If Gen. Harrison had attempted at that time to "carry he war into the enemy's country" he would have acted in violation of the plan of campaign, as directed by Secretary Armstrong and as suggested by the General himself. The General was to await the result of the naval contest on the Lake before he should commence offensive operations. The supplies and reinforcements were advancing to meet that contingency, and unless Mr. Headley required Gen. Harrison to march around the Lake towards Detroit and abandon all reliance on Perry's fleet, his statement in this respect was destitute of the usual caution of the historian. But as to the declaration that the "frontier was in a deplorable condition," ir that the savages had made successful inroads upon he settlements," there are citizens enough still living it Ohio,

indulging in romance. By the plan of campaign which established posts on the frontier in front of each wing of the army, and thus kept a large portion of the Indians at Malden in anticipation of an attack, and the desultory expeditions projected against the Indian villages, the settlements were protected, and the enemy kept in the dark as to ulterior operations. Gen. Harrison covered the frontier more effectually and advanced more rapidly to thegrand result than revent the disaster and save that corps which was al- | consumed two years in the necessary pregarations for the main campaign. On this subject Col. Norrison, a revolutionary officer and Quartermaster General, is very ex-

Indiana, and Michigan to prove that the author has been

"The positions selected for protecting the frontier set-What could a Turenne or an Eugene have done, under as a proof that they were so, it is remarkable that during pressure of embarrassing circumstances, MORE THAN the autumn and winter of 1812-'13, in a fratier of great extent, there was scarcely an instance of the inhabitants being molested by the enemy. The general grangements for concentrating the troops at the Rapids of the Miami, as soon as stores and provisions could be procured to justify an advance, were such, in my opinion as evinced a correct knowledge of the country and character of the enemy, and great military talents on the partof General

> Throughout the frontier of the vast Northwest but on near the Lake between Cleveland and Sandusty, and is adverted to by Gen. Harrison in his masterly orrespon-

I proceed now to offer some testimonials and considerations to show that Mr. Headley has done injustice to the the energy and promptness necessary to an efficient com-On the 13th February, 1813, the field and plateon offi- mander." Passing over the indications of a high moral cers of all the Kentucky regiments from which the de- character which Harrison's career under Gen. Wayne tachment sent to the River Raisin was formed held a afforded, the "brilliant victory at Tippecane" (so acmeeting and made the following address to General Har- knowledged by Mr. Headley) presents the firs instance

> "We," say the officers of the 4th United States legimen who were in the action, "deem it our duty to sate, as incontestable facts, that the commander-in-chief throughout the campaign and in the hour of battle proved him

> Col. O'Fallon, now of St. Louis, and a nephew of Gen George Rogers Clarke, the Hannibal of the West, says: "I was by Gen. Harrison's side through nearly the whole of the late war, and can bear testimony to his tool, undaunted, and collected courage, as well as to his skill as an able, efficient, and active officer. After the battle of Tippecance, which has thrown so much glory over our country's arms, it was unicersally admitted that Gen. Harrison was the only officer that could have saved the army from defeat and massacre.'

In December, 1811, the Legislature of the Indiana Territory bore testimony to "his superior capacity and integrity in that action." The Legislature of Kentucky, on
the motion of the distinguished patriot, J. J. Crittenden—
"Resolved, That, in the late campaign against the Indispressible of the Message against the Indispressible of

dians on the Wabash, Gov. W. H. Harrison has, in the ever assigned to any officer in the United States; yet he opinion of this Legislature, behaved like a hero, a patriot, and a general; and that for his cool, deliberate, skilful, well deserves the warmest thanks of the nation

President Madison announced the battle to Congress, and remarked that-

"While it is deeply lamented that so many valuable lives have been lost in the action which took place on the 7th ultimo, Congress will see with satisfaction the dauntless spirit and fortitude displayed by every description o roops engaged, as well as the collected firmness which listinguished their commander on an occasion requiring the utmost exertion of valor and discipline."

McAfee, in his History of the War, remarks that-"The common opinion seemed to be that the army ha een conducted with prudence, and that the battle had been fought as well as it could have been by any general, nsidering the time and manner of attack

Judge Hall, himself an officer in the late war with reat Britain, in speaking of this battle, bestows the felowing beautiful compliment on the commander:

"As far as any commander is entitled to credit, inde endent of his army, he (Gen. Harrison) merits and has ceived it. He shared every danger and fatigue to which is army was exposed. In the battle he was in more eril than any other individual; for he was personal nown to every Indian, and exposed himself fearlessly on orseback, at all points of the attack, during the whole engagement. Every important movement was made by

In the language of the same eloquent writer-

"The field of Tippecanoe has become classic ground the American traveller pauses there to contemplate a scene which has become hallowed by victory. The peo ple of Indiana contemplate with pride the battle-ground on which their militia won imperishable honor and their infant State became enrolled in the ranks of patriotism.

Brackenridge, on page 27, makes the following comment on this battle : "This is one of the most desperate battles ever fought

with the Indians, and, but for the caution and efficiency of the commander-in-chief, might have terminated like the night attack on Gen. St. Clair. The army, with the exception of the regular troops under Gen. Boyd, was chiefly composed of militia and volunteers who had never been in battle before. Resolutions were passed by the Legislatures of Kentucky and Indiana highly complimentary of Governor Harrison and the officers and troops under his command; and the reputation of the com-mander-in-chief as an able and prudent general was established on the most solid foundation."

The reputation acquired under Wayne and at Tippeca oe led the Governor of Kentucky, Gen. Charles Scott, himself a hero under Washington and Wayne, to confer on Gen. Harrison the appointment of Breyet Major General of the Kentucky troops, the most distinguished compliment he could bestow, as he was not a citizen of the State. This appointment was confirmed by the President, whose views are expressed in a letter from the Secretary of War to Gov. Shelby:

"To meet existing contingencies, after consulting the lawful authority vested in the President, it has been de-termined to vest the command of all the forces on the Western and Northwestern frontier in an officer whose military character and knowledge of the country appears to be combined with the public confidence. Gen. Harrison has accordingly been appointed to the chief command, with authority to employ officers and to draw from the public stores, and every other practicable source, all the means of effectuating the objects of his command."

On which Butler, in his History of Kentucky, page 346, adds the following remarks:

"An extent of command and discretion which implied the most unreserved confidence of the Administration in the skill and the real of Gen. Harrison. It was most richly merited and gallantly repaid. By this command the General was replaced on a theatre which he had occu-pied twenty years before."

Gen. McAfee, an officer in the late war, makes the following reference to this appointment, (p. 140:)

SECULARIES OF POSTAGE TO HOSE KAND

"The services which he was required to perform were, in the opinion of old, experienced, and able officers, the most extensive and arduous that had ever been required from any military commander in America. The endless number of posts and scattered settlements which he was obliged to maintain and protect against numerous and scattered bands of Indians, while he was contending with difficulties almost insurmountable in the main expedition against Malden, were sufficient to employ all the time, and talents, and resources of the greatest military genius at the head of a well-appointed army."

How nobly Gen. Harrison fulfilled these expectations the histories of that day afford abundant evidence. The ing along the Lakes, (then in possession of the enemy,) with harbors, inlets, and rivers admirably suited to favor their attacks upon our scattered border settlements. To defend this extended line of frontier the commander's forces were chiefly undisciplined militia, entirely wanting experience in the field, engaged for short terms of service, and held in obedience more by personal influence than the force of authority. But it was not to the defence alone of this district that Gen. Harrison's duties were confined. He was directed by his Government to act offensively against the enemy by re-taking Detroit and capturing the uppermost Canada, defended, as it was, by experienced British officers and soldiers, aided by a large body of Northwestern Indians, the best light troops in the world. Detroit and Canada were separated from Gen. Harrison's source of troops, munitions of war, and provisions by a trackless and swampy wilderness, without roads, and presenting almost insuperable obstacles to the transportation of army supplies; while, at the same time, it was precisely the region of country best adapted to the peculiar mode of warfare practised by the bold and ferocious Indians. Notwithstanding these manifold difficulties, in about one year from the time when he was invested with the chief command of the Northwestern army Gen. Harrison drove the enemy from his extended military district, re-took Detroit, defeated the combined army of Proctor and Tecumseh on the Thames, conquered the uppermost Canada, and passed as a victorious chieftain down to the seat of war, on the Niagara frontier. The grave charge uttered by Mr. Headley against the

military reputation of Gen. Harrison demands that I should not spare him by withholding yet more illustrious testimonials calculated to refute the ungenerous imputation. Long after the events in the Northwestern war on which Mr. Headley has predicated his illiberal criticism, and subsequent to the defence of Fort Meigs and Sandusky, Governor Shelby, of Kentucky, reposing entire

confidence in the "energy and promptness" of Gen. Harrison, determined to repair to his standard, at the head of such a mounted force from that State as would volunteer at that interesting period. The letter of invitation by Gen. Harrison and the acceptance by Gov. Shelby are characteristic and worthy of both. Says Harrison :

"To make this last effort, why not, my dear sir, con in person? You would not object to a command that would be nominal only. I have such confidence in your wisdom that you, in fact, should 'be the guiding head and I the hand.' The situation you would be placed in would not be without its parallel. Scipio, the conqueror of Carthage, did not disdain to act as the lieutenant of his younger and less experienced brother Lucius."

Shelby replies : "No apology was necessary to invite me to your standard. Had I more age and much greater experience I would not hesitate to fight under your banner for the honor and interest of my beloved country.'

Gov. Shelby had served under Gates, the conqueror Burgoyne, and also under Greene and Marion, the heroes of the South in the war of the Revolution, and under Harrison in the memorable campaign of 1813. His opinions of that distinguished commander are expressed in no equivocal terms in the following extracts of a letter to President Madison in May, 1814, and to Gen. Harrison

in April, 1816: Extract from the letter to the President. A rumor has reached this State, which, from the moved from that command. This circumstance has induced me to reflect on the subject, and to give a decided preference to Major General Harrison as a successor. Having served a campaign with General Harrison, by which I have been enabled to form some opinion of his military talents and capacity to command. I feel no hesitation to declare to you that I believe him to be one of the first military characters I ever knew; and, in addition to this,

surmounted all. "Impressed with the conviction that General Harrison sfully adequate to the command of the Northern army, should a change take place in that division, I have ver tured thus freely to state my opinion of him, that he is a consummate general and would fill that station with ability and honor; and that if on the other hand, any arrangement should take place in the War De which may produce the resignation of General Harrison, it will be a misfortune which our country will have cause to lament. His appointment to the command of the Northern army would be highly gratifying to the wishes of the Western people, except some who may, perhaps, be governed by sinister views.

Extract from the letter to General Harrison. "During the whole of this long and arduous pursui no man could make greater exertions or use more vigi-lance than you did to overtake Proctor, whilst the skill and promptitude with which you arranged the troops for battle and the distinguished zeal and bravery you evinced during its continuance merited and received my highes approbation.

"In short, sir, from the time I joined you to the mo ment of our separation, I believe that no commander ever did or could make greater exertions than you did to effect the great object of the campaign. I admired your plans and thought them executed with great energy; particulary your order of battle and arrangements for landing on he Canada shore were calculated to inspire every officer and man with a confidence that we could not be defeated

by any thing like our own number.
"Until after I had served in the campaign of 1813 I was not aware of the difficulties which you had to encounte as commander of the Northwestern army. I have since often said, and still do believe, that the duties assigned to you on that occasion were more arduous and difficult to accomplish than any I had ever known confided to any commander; and with respect to the zeal and fidelity with which you executed the high and important trust, there are thousands in Kentucky as well as mysel who believed it could not have been committed to bette

Commodore Perry, who fought on two elements, like Gov. Shelby in two wars, gives his high testimony in these words, addressed to Gen. Harrison in August, 1817:

"The prompt change made by you in the order of bat-tle on discovering the position of the enemy has always appeared to me to have evinced a high degree of military talent. I concur with the venerable Shelby in his general approbation of your conduct in that campaign."

Col. Wood, whose military eye discovered that position of the enemy which induced Gen. Harrison to change the mode of attack, introduced into his journal the following criticism upon the events of the day:

" It is really a novel thing that raw militia, stuck upon horses, with muskets in their hands instead of sabres should be able to pierce British lines with such complete effect as did Johnson's men in the affair upon the Thames and perhaps the only circumstance which could justify that deviation from the long-established rules of the art military is the complete success of the result. Great generals are authorized to step aside occasionally, espe-cially when they know that their errors will not be oticed by their adversary.

Col. Croghan, the heroic defender of Sandusky, stated

"The measures recently adopted by Gen. Harrison, so far from deserving censure, are the clearest proofs of his keen penetration and able generalship." Gen. Cass added, also, his imposing testimony.

etter to Gen. Harrison of August, 1817, he said : "So far as my feeble testimony can aid in removing

erroneous impressions which have injured you it is given with pleasure. From the time I joined the army under your command its operations were conducted with as much celerity as possible, and, so far as respects yourself, its fiscal concerns I am confident were managed with the most scrupulous integrity." Col. Johnson, late Vice President of the United States,

and so distinguished in the battle of the Thames, uttered on the floor of Congress the following noble sentiments:

"Of the career of Gen. Harrison I need not speak; the bistory of the West is his history. For forty years he has been identified with its interests, ite perils, and its hopes. Universally beloved in the walks of peace and distinguished by his ability in the councils of his country, he has been yet more illustriously distinguished in the field.

"During the late war he was longer in active service than any other general officer: he was perhans offerer.

than any other general officer; he was, perhaps, oftener in action than any of them, and never sustained a defeat."

The account of the victory at the Thames, to be found in Brackenridge's History, page 156, is not less explicit as to Gen. Harrison's military capacity and the glorious result of his management of that part of the war confided to his guidance:

"By this splendid achievement Gen. Harrison rescuethe whole Northwestern frontier from the depredations of the savages and the horrors of war. The national gratitude burst out in one loud voice of applause. He was complimented by Congress and by various public bodies; and a distinguished public man, Mr. Cheves, asserted on the floor of the national House of Representatives that his victory 'was such as would have secured to a Roman General in the best days of the Rapublic the honors of a General in the best days of the Republic the honors of a

Mr. Brackenridge's reflections at large upon the war were well worthy of imitation by Mr. Headley. A short extract is introduced as an illustration of his views:

"On the Niagara frontier there was much hard fight ing; but every campaign opened under a new general, and sometimes before its close that general was superseded. After the fall of Pike the war in that quarter was ed. After the fall of Pike the war in that quarter was carried on without any settled plan or object, and it ended without accomplishing any thing, except to afford opportunity to a number of officers to distinguish themselves for their military talents and intrepidity. Of these, Generals Brown, Scott, Jesup, Miller, Ripley, Towson, are among the most deservedly eminent. To the Northwest our military affairs were conducted on a different plan, and under a commander who was completely successful in what he undertook. In the South the war was also confided to a single individual who was found fully comconfided to a single individual, who was found fully com-petent to the duties assigned him. Harrison and Jackson are, therefore, the only generals who can be said to be ve conducted entire plans of operation to a successful issue, and their names are decidedly the most conspicuous in the history of the war." The injustice extended to the memory of Gen. Harrison

military man to the Presidency whose career in the field "lacked energy and promptness." How strangely would the following sentences appear in juxtaposition: Congress votes a gold medal to Gen. Harrison for gallantry and good conduct in the capture of the British army and dispersion of the Indian force at the battle of the Thames, yet "he lacked the energy and promptness neessary to an efficient commander!" And thus a parallel might be run between the opinion of Mr. Headley and the statements of nearly all the principal officers who had been eye-witnesses of his energetic conduct and indefatigable exertions. But I deem it unnecessary to pursue the subject further, simply remarking that faithful history will regard him as the best read military chief of that war-Wilkinson, Pike, and Izard alone approaching him in comparison. He had examined and analyzed every important battle of ancient and modern times; the composition of the forces, the plan of attack, the strategy, the weak points, and the deciding causes of victory were all reviewed and stored in his memory, and he thus united the accomplishments of the military scholar with the vigor of the patriotic hero, "gathering the double wreath and the blended fame."

Mr. Headley has dwelt with great complacency an uniform praise in reference to the career of Gen. Jackson at New Orleans, and Generals Brown and Scott and their gallant associates on the Niagara. This is in commendable taste. The genius of Jackson was brilliantly displayed in the resolution to- attack the enemy on the 23d December, and his valor and decision of character were conspicuous throughout every movement of that worldrenowned campaign, while his fame will be chanted by millions as long as the waters of the Father of Rivers roll on go the ocean; the deeds of Brown and Scott and their heroic subalterns will be regarded in after ages as noble specimens of American skill and valor in triumpublic prints, appears to be believed, that the Com-manding General of the Nowthern army may be re-was the first general to maintain his ground in a night attack by the Northwestern Indians, and he alone captured an entire British army and defeated a formidable Indian force in the territory of the enemy. This is his praise, and his only, and will "bid the distant generations hail!"

The fame of eminent public men is not less the rich in heritance than the moral wealth of the State. It is not, then, the dictate of patriotism to depreciate the charachis life to maintain the public safety and advance the national renown! There is a peculiar ingratitude in the historian of a war depreciating the claims of those en. trusted with the conduct of military operations. The soldier is jealous, above all men, of attempts to impugn his courage or his patriotism, while the leader of an army feels all these motives, combined with a strong sensibility to attacks upon his military efficiency. The survivors of the second war with England have a right, and it is their high duty, to vindicate the memory of their associate from all aspersions presumptuously cast upon them by the manufacturers of history. Such I feel it to be my duty, in the present instance, in reference to the unjustifiable assault upon the well-earned fame of Gen. Harrison with respect to whose career, in the particular events ad verted to, I may say, in the language of Æneas to Dido, Multum que vidi et quorum pars magna fui."

Accept the cordial respects of your ancient and devoted

A DISGRACEFUL OUTRAGE IN MAINE. The Rev. John Barst, a Catholic clergyman of Bangor

Maine, who was tarred and feathered at Ellsworth, in that State, in the night of Saturday, the 14th instant has, we are pleased to learn, recovered from his injuries. From the accounts given of this outrage by the Bangor papers we learn that Mr. Barer was formerly pastor at Ellsworth, and, having visited the town on the 14th instant, was stopping at the house of Mr. Kenr, which was surrounded and broken into about midnight by a crowd of rowdies. Mr. Bapst fled to the cellar, but was dragged out, stripped, and rode on a rail, during which crue treatment he was robbed of his watch and wallet, and re viled by epithets and all sorts of blasphemies. He was finally carried to a shipyard, about half a mile distant, and there tarred and feathered, besides being otherwise abused. His persecutors then left him alone to suffer or to find his way to Mr. Kent's house. These violent proceedings exposed the unfortunate priest for more than two hours to a cold rain storm, on a dark night, which

went in pursuit of them.

The immediate cause of the outrage consisted in the fact that Mr. Bapst had been connected with a controversy respecting the right of the authorities to enforce the reading of a book in school on the part of scholars whose parents objected to it. Being overruled by the authorities, he had brought the matter before the regularly constituted tribunals, where it is now awaiting decision. The outrage is commented upon with much indignation by all the newspapers. The Bangor Whig says, truly, that such acts as this array themselves against the laws of the land and all the pledges of civilized society, as well as against the securities of our Constitution and the whole spirit and aim of our system of Government

enabled the mob to clude the sheriff and his posse, who

The Bangor Journal says:

"The indignation expressed by all classes of our citizens is greater than we have known to exist here for a long time. It surpasses belief almost, and makes us shudder, when such outrages are perpetrated in our own State, to think what may not be possible from the fury of the fanaticism of the day.

"If in this country a man is to suffer violence for his religious opinions, where on earth can he be safe from persecution? While we are demanding the right of free persecution? While we are demanding the right of free worship for Protestants in Catholic countries, are we to set an example here in direct conflict with our demands abroad? By just so much as we are faithless to the principle of religious toleration here, by just so much do we diminish our chances of extending that principle through-out the world. We do not cherish religious freedom for the defence of Catholics or of Protestants, but for the defence of all creeds alike; for the protection of the rights

"In their regard for religious toleration the American people, we believe, are very generally united. The citizens of Maine will doubtless condemn this Ellsworth outrage almost unanimously. But the fact of its occurrence should admonish all good men of the danger of inflaming a fanatical excitement. They who heedlessly, or for selfish purposes, scatter firebrands, arrows, and death around them fracurate firebrands. around them, frequently find themselves responsible for results which they never meant to accomplish, and for which they themselves are among the severest sufferers."

LATE NEWS FROM CANTON.

Communicated for the Journal of Commerce. U. S. STEAMER JOHN HANCOCK, Hong Kong, August 3, 1854. We left Canton a week ago yesterday, being relieved

from guard duty by the arrival of Commodore PERRY. I mentioned in my last that Commander RINGGOLD was lying dangerously ill at Dr. Parker's. On Friday evening, (July 22,) previous to our departure, I called at Dr. Parker's, and found the Commander sitting up and talking with them and their company. He was then just convalescent; had been delirious in his sickness, and then showed occasional symptoms of a wandering mind, though his conversation was for the most part rational.

The apprehension of an immediate attack [by the Rebels upon Canton] subsided before we left. The Chinese fought in their peculiar fashion, making a business nese fought in their pecunar research, or day and stopping of the war—the two armies fighting one day and stopping of the war—the two armies againing one day and scopping in sight of each other the next to rest and eat rice. Till within a few days of our leaving the principal hostilities were taking place at a village, or small city, about ten miles up the river—the rebels standing there to hold the place, and the mandarins alternately meeting them when they sallied out, and burning them out when they retired within the town. Human bodies, some fresh and others in various stages of decay, and many of them headless, came floating down past us, singly and tied together, in twos, threes, and fives, at every turn of the tide while we lay there. They were in considerable numbers, and tainted both the air and the water.

tainted both the air and the water.

The Consul, desiring to reconnoitre, requested Captain Rogers to accompany him up the river with armed boats. The launch and the gig were therefore manned and armed and dispatched early one morning. The party returned about noon. They had passed through the imperial fleet of junks without question, and, pulling somewhat further up, they attempted a friendly parley with the rebels in the field, but were warned off. When they had shoved two or three rods from the bank one of the had shoved two or three rods from the bank one of the rebels, standing near on the shore, took a deliberate aim with his matchlock and fired at the gig. The ball grazed the Consul's cheek-bone. The four marines, seeing this fellow aim, took aim also, and one of them wished to fire to prevent the threatened mischief; but the captain said "No: if he fires, then we'll fire; not otherwise." The injustice extended to the memory of Gen. Harrison by Mr. Headley is palpable when we reflect that Congress never voted a gold medal to a General who was not "an efficient commander;" nor have the people ever elevated men, and both barrels of the captain's double gun, loaded with buck-shot, were simultaneously discharged at him, and over he tumbled at once. The rest ran and squatted down in line, and covered themselves with their bamboo shields. Returning through the mandarin fleet, they called on the Admiral, were graciously received, and treated to cups of tea. Mr. Bonney, an American missionary, acted as interpreter. So the adventure ended.

During our stay Canton became gradually depopulations of the stay that they the treats were as account.

d. When we first went there the streets were so crowded with the usual population that you could hardly move through the busy press. I took several walks, from time to time, and witnessed the changes. A day or two before we left there were scarcely a dozen individuals in a street. The shops, with perhaps half a dozen exceptions, in a street were stripped even of their shelves, and the walls hung with religious and deprecatory handbills. Even such shops as had goods in them had very few, such as might easily be removed. The neat, narrow, smoothly-paved streets seemed to have been suddenly deserted, with all their gaudy ornaments and signs left standing. It was a lonely, peculiar, and somewhat mel-

ancholy scene.

The investment of the city was very gradual. Before we left the rebels were before the walls and fighting was going on outside the gate; visible, it was said, from the ops of the Hongs, but on the opposite side from the river. In my solitary walks through the streets I found he narrow door-like entrance to each end of a street, with its stone framing and sills, barricaded by stout upright wooden bars, one only being left out for the pas-sage of a single person, and the street watched by half a dozen of the imperial soldiers, with their bamboo san-dals, round bamboo shields, close-fitting, bowl-like, paint-ed straw caps, and their long trident spears. These last were set in a rack by the barricades, and they carried instead in their patrol a rattan switch, with quite the air of rattan dandies. In this manner the whole of Canton appeared to be barricaded at every few steps. Such was the state of things when we left. We have heard since of one or two large fires there and the landing of Commodore Perry's seventy men and marines with their arms and howitzers, but there is no decided news of a struggle within the city. Its fall, I suppose, will be contested and gradual, from are to fire and barricade to barricade. Dr. PARKER says that the Chinese, notwithstanding their want of skill to resist foreign arms, fight very well among

The Perry's bring no very glowing account of Japan, and assure us that when we get there we shall find it dull enough—scenery and every thing else. Trade, even for curiosities with officers, is pretty much interdicted as yet. So, setting aside Japan and the cold regions of the north, I consider that we have already had th

TUNNEL UNDER THE OHIO RIVER.

The Louisville Journal has an article upon the pros ets and feasibility of the construction of a tunnel under the Ohio river at Louisville, Kentucky, and Jeffersonville, Indiana. A charter for this work was granted by the Kentucky Legislature, March 6, 1854, and the right of way given by the city of Louisville, and the work ferever exempted from taxation for city purposes, on the 27th day of May, 1854. The Fort Wayne and Southern Railroad Company have accepted the charter and the release of the right of way, and propose making up the stock, and, if possible, to put the work under contract this fall or early in the spring. The tunnel will, be exclusively for railway purposes, with a double track, adapted to the use of all the roads of the different guages. It will be twenty-eight feet wide in the clear and seventeen feet high, perpendicularly, from the centre of each track. The arching will be sixty feet less than two miles in length. The descending grades into the tunnel, at either end, will be only eighty feet per mile on a straight line. From the head of the grade on one side to the head of the grade on the opposite side of the river will be two miles and a half. The tunnel will be constructed in the river by excavating a channel or pit in the rock and arching over with the material excavated-limestone rock of the best quality. The work has been surveyed and the cost estimated at one million two hundred thousand dollars. It is proposed to raise this sum by a cash subscription, no part of which is made payable until the whole sum is subscribed. Whenever all the stock is taken then it becomes payable in four equal semi-annual instalments.

FROM AUSTRALIA.

Our advices from Australia are to the 24th of July. The various colonies were steadily advancing in population and wealth. The total number of arrivals at Sydney alone from the 24th of May to the 12th of July was 12,606, an increase of 2,542 over the departures. These arrivals were from all parts of the world, including Eng-

arrivals were from an parts of the world, the the lands, the United States, China, the South Sea Islands, &c. In the Council of Sydney, on the 7th of July, a series of resolutions was introduced to the effect that there is an increasing demand for labor in the Colony, but that this demand can only be fully and effectual met from the population of Europe and America, and protesting against the coolie plan, or the bringing in of the negro race.—Baltimore American.

The defeat of the Prohibitory Liquor Law in Pennsylvania being at length ascertained beyond a doubt, some discussion is going on in the press of the State as to what course shall be pursued on the subject. Various Western journals are advocating a proposition to pass a law permitting any county to establish the prohibition within its boundaries by a popular vote. Should this be done, the Philadelphia American says the greater part of the State would be under the operation of the law, as about thirty-five counties have given majorities for it at the results. five counties have given majorities for it at the recent election. To this the Pittsburgh Journal responds that such a regulation would give rise to all manner of eva-

A DROUGHT IN CONNECTICUT .- It is a time of dreadful drought for the old soakers of Connecticut. Their liquor law is as stringent as persimmons. A striped pig can't breathe Connecticut air any better than he could charcoal fumes. To get drunk requires a deal of enterprise, and to make another so is harder than it was to take Sebastopol—by telegraph. In reply to an inquiring cor-respondent the Hartford Daily Times thus exposes the in-

tent of the law: 1. You cannot make cider without violating this law, unless you either "grow" or "gather" the apples yourself.
2. The law does prohibit the distilling of your own cider, unless you are authorised by the County Commissioner, and

unless you are authorised by the County Commissioner, and then you can only sell to town agents.

3. It does not prohibit your making beer, other than lager, unless it be intoxicating; but it does prohibit your distilling or selling the distilled spirits, unless it be to town agents only, whou authorized by the County Commissioners.

In short our correspondent can only make cider of apples grown or raised by himself, and then he cannot sell in a less quantity than five gallons. He cannot distill his own cider,